

## **THE HONORABLE JAMES L. ROBART**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE**

JULIE AND STEFAN GILES, a married couple,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE  
INSURANCE COMPANY, a foreign insurer,  
Defendant.

NO. 2:17-cv-01888-JLR  
STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER  
**NOTED FOR CONSIDERATION:**  
**March 23, 2018**

## **1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

1           **2. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL**

2           "Confidential" material shall include the following documents and tangible things  
3 produced or otherwise exchanged: selected portions of defendant State Farm Mutual Automobile  
4 Insurance Company's Automobile Claims Manual; Plaintiff's financial records, tax returns, and  
Plaintiff's medical records reflecting other conditions.

5           **3. SCOPE**

6           The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as  
defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all  
copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,  
conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.  
However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public  
domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

10           **4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

11           **4.1 Basic Principles.** A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed  
12 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,  
13 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the  
14 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material  
15 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures  
16 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

17           **4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items.** Unless otherwise ordered  
18 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any  
19 confidential material only to:

20           (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees  
21 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so designated;

(c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

(d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

(e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

(f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

**4.3 Filing Confidential Material.** Before filing confidential material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the party shall confer with the designating party to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

1           **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

2           5.1     Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party  
3 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take  
4 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate  
5 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,  
6 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the  
7 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept  
8 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

9           Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are  
10 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to  
11 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses  
12 and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

13          If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for  
14 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties  
15 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

16          5.2     Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this  
17 agreement (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or  
18 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must  
19 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

20           (a)     Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and  
21 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),  
22 the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains  
23 confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection,  
24 the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate  
25 markings in the margins).

(b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings: the parties must identify on the record, during the deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving a deposition transcript, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

**5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate.** If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

## 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

6.2 **Meet and Confer.** The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other

1 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list  
2 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-  
3 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

4       6.3     Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court  
5 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local  
6 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of  
7 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those  
8 made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on  
9 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain  
10 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

11     **7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN  
12 OTHER LITIGATION**

13       If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels  
14 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that party  
15 must:

- 16           (a)     promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the  
17 subpoena or court order;
- 18           (b)     promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to  
19 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is  
20 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and
- 21           (c)     cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by  
22 the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

23     **8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

24       If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential  
25 material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving

1 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures,  
2 (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the  
3 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,  
4 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be  
5 Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

6 **9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE  
7 PROTECTED MATERIAL**

8 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently  
9 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the  
10 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision  
11 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or  
12 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. Parties shall confer on an  
13 appropriate non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502.

14 **10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS**

15 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving  
16 party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and  
17 summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

18 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all  
19 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,  
20 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work  
21 product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

22 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a  
23 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

24 **IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**

25

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1070.070/StipulatedProtectiveOrder

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Dated March 23 2018

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Dated 3/23/2018

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## ORDER

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated March 23, 2018

**THE HON. JAMES L. ROBART**  
United States District Judge

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER - 8**

**1070.070/Stipulated Protective Order**

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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of \_\_\_\_\_  
[print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury  
that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by  
the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on \_\_\_\_\_  
[date] in the case of *Julie and Stefan Giles v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance*, United  
States District Court for the Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. 2:17-cv-01888-  
JLR. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order  
and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and  
punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner  
any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity  
except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the  
Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective  
Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_